

~~TOP SECRET EYES ONLY~~

28 March 1957

Chief, St/I/C

SA to Ch/G/RR

Value of Open-Source Material to Geographic Intelligence

1. As requested by you, attached hereto are specific examples of the part played by open-source material in the production of geographic intelligence. Sample studies are cited for the USSR, Hungary, Israel and Jordan, Latin America, Thailand-Cambodia, and Tibet.

2. The bulk of geographic intelligence consists of the interpretation of data rather than the presentation of data for its own sake. In addition, the materials to be interpreted--terrain, ethnic characteristics, rail nets--are often innocuous in and of themselves, and do not have to be acquired by covert or clandestine means. Probably 60% of the data necessary for all geographic intelligence is therefore procured from open-source materials. Qualitatively, the importance is perhaps even greater.

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